

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A low-profile~~ An inserter for ~~[[an]] a low-profile~~ angled infusion set ~~having a cannula assembly including a cannula housing and a cannula extending from the housing to be inserted subcutaneously,~~ the low-profile inserter comprising:

an inserter housing having a bottom wall, and a distal end defining an opening therein;

a retainer slideably ~~connected to~~ mounted in the inserter housing for movement between retracted and extended positions in a direction substantially parallel with the bottom wall, the retainer being adapted to releasably receive ~~the cannula assembly~~ the infusion set, including a cannula and an insertion needle, the cannula and insertion needle defining an insertion axis;

a tension spring extending between two points for biasing said retainer toward said extended position, said tension spring being movable between an expanded position when said retainer is in said retracted position, and a contracted position when said retainer is in said extended position;

a first release button for releasing said tension spring from said expanded position, said first release button movable in a direction substantially normal to said insertion axis; and

a base member connected to the inserter housing, the base member having a lower surface that is adapted to contact ~~an outer~~ a user's skin surface, the lower surface

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and the bottom wall forming an acute angle, wherein the cannula and the insertion needle ~~[[can]]~~ are guided to be inserted subcutaneously along the insertion axis at said acute angle with respect to the skin ~~outer~~ surface.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A low-profile~~ An inserter according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, and further comprising a safety member slideably mounted to the inserter housing ~~between a first locking position wherein the safety member is in locking engagement with the release lever to prevent inadvertent release of the retainer when the inserter is in the retracted position and the release lever is in the retaining position and a second releasing position wherein the safety member is disengaged from the release lever to thereby permit release of the retainer from the retracted position.~~

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A low-profile~~ An inserter according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, and further comprising a ~~second release member~~ mechanism including a second release button ~~mounted for movement with the retainer for releasably holding the cannula assembly on~~ for releasing the infusion set from the retainer.

5-11. Cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A low-profile~~ An inserter according to claim 1, wherein the acute angle is in the range of about 10 degrees to about 40 degrees.

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13. (Currently Amended) ~~A low-profile~~ An inserter according to claim 1, wherein the acute angle is approximately 30 degrees.

14. (Currently Amended) An inserter for an infusion set ~~having a cannula assembly including a cannula housing and a cannula extending from the housing to be inserted subcutaneously,~~ the inserter comprising:

an inserter housing defining an opening in a distal end thereof;

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a retainer slideably connected to the inserter housing for movement between retracted and extended positions, the retainer being adapted to releasably receive the ~~cannula assembly~~ infusion set including a cannula and an insertion needle, the cannula and the insertion needle defining an insertion axis;

a biasing member connected between the retainer and the inserter housing for biasing the retainer toward the extended position, said biasing member being expanded when said retainer is in said retracted position, and contracted when said retainer is in said extended position; [[and]]

a first release lever ~~pivotaly mounted to the inserter housing, the first release lever including a first end portion exposed through the housing for manipulation by an operator and a second end portion for engagement with the retainer to thereby hold the retainer in the retracted position, wherein pivotal movement of the first release lever in a first rotational direction causes disengagement of the second end portion and the retainer to thereby release the retainer~~ button for releasing said biasing member from

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said compressed position, movable in a direction substantially normal to said insertion axis; and

a base attached to a lower surface of said inserter housing defining an acute angle with respect to said inserter housing, for guiding the insertion needle and the cannula to be inserted subcutaneously in skin of a user, along the insertion axis and at an acute angle with respect to the skin.

15-16. Cancelled.

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17. (New) A method for inserting an insertion needle and a cannula into skin of a user, comprising the steps of:

providing an inserter housing having a bottom wall, a distal end defining an opening therein, and a base member attached to the bottom wall proximate the distal end, said base member including a lower surface adapted to contact the skin and defining an acute angle with said bottom wall;

slidably mounting a retainer within said inserter housing, movable between a retracted position and an extended position, said extended position being substantially parallel with said bottom wall of said inserter housing;

mounting the cannula and the insertion needle in said retainer to define an insertion axis;

providing a tension spring between two points for biasing said retainer toward said extended position, movable between an expanded position and a contracted position;

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releasing said tension spring by pressing a release button proximate said distal end of said inserter housing, in a direction substantially normal to the insertion axis, thereby releasing said spring to move from said expanded position to said contracted position and move said retainer to said extended position, whereby said insertion needle and said cannula are guided to be inserted subcutaneously in the skin at said acute angle with respect to the skin.

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